



1856/1/5

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NEW VOYAGES AND TRAVELS
Vol. 2, no. 3,



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NARRATIVE
OF THE
SUFFERINGS AND ADVENTURES
OF
HENDERICK PORTENGER,
A PRIVATE SOLDIER OF THE LATE SWISS
REGIMENT DE MUERON,
WHO WAS
WRECKED ON THE SHORES OF ABYSSINIA,
IN THE RED SEA.

BY R. DE MAY,

CAPTAIN OF THE SAID REGIMENT.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR SIR RICHARD PHILLIPS AND Co.

BRIDE-COURT, BRIDGE-STREET.

1819.



NARRATIVE,

&c. &c. &c.

[The following Narrative was taken down in Writing, from the verbal Account of PORTENGER, after his Return to his Regiment. He was a Man of good Sense, and of a very retentive Memory; not addicted to Exaggeration, and personally well known to the Writer of these Sheets, who was then an Officer in the same Regiment; the Public may, therefore, rely upon the Veracity of the Facts which are about to be related. The Narrative has been given in his own Words, as he gave the Relation to the Writer.]

ON the 2d February, 1801, the regiment de Mueron being then in garrison at Madras, a detachment of the said regiment, composed of one serjeant, one corporal, and eighteen privates, of which I was one, was ordered to accompany General Lake to Bengal, as a guard of honour. We embarked with him on-board the company's packet-boat the *Swallow*, and left Madras on the 3d of February. We arrived at Fort-William on the 12th of the same month, and disembarked on the 13th. We remained at Calcutta until the 1st of April following, and were extremely well treated. On the 1st of April we were sent down the river Hoogly, and embarked, on the 4th, on-board the company's ship *Weisshelm*, a very large vessel of two decks, commanded by Captain Baer. We set sail on the 7th following, in the supposition that we were going to Madras to rejoin our regiment and our friends and comrades, of which our whole detachment were naturally desirous; but a few days after we were undeceived, in a very unpleasant manner, by learning that our ship was loaded with provisions, and destined to carry them to the British army in Egypt, without being allowed to touch any where on the way. We sailed to the end of April, without seeing any land, when we came in view of the high land of Cape Comorin, round which we steered.

On the 4th of June the captain of our ship, after the celebration of the king's birth-day, gave an entertainment to the officers and crew, of which we made a part, and it lasted the whole day.

The 7th of June, in the afternoon, we saw high land, which proved to be the coast of Africa. At seven o'clock in the evening, the captain ordered the officer of the watch to be very careful to keep the ship at the distance from land which he had pointed out to him, and to be careful to avoid some rocks at no great distance; a watch of four men was placed on the fore-top, with orders to be very vigilant and keep a good look-out, for fear of getting too near the land.

But soon after, the sentry on the foretop cried out, "Breakers a-head!" on hearing which, the officer on watch, who seemed to be just awakened from a profound sleep, exclaimed, "What is that you say? you lie, you scoundrel!" but at the same instant the men at the helm also cried out, that the ship became unmanageable, and did not obey the helm any longer, which we found proceeded from the force of the waves breaking on the rocks; on this the officer of the watch ran to the compass; but he seemed as much frightened as any one, so he sent for the captain immediately, who, depending on the vigilance of the officer and the orders he had given, had retired to take some rest; as soon as he came on deck, which he did immediately, he saw what had happened, and gave what orders he judged necessary on this melancholy occasion; but it was unfortunately too late; the ship was surrounded on every side with rocks and breakers, on which the sea broke tremendously; he ordered the guns to be thrown overboard, but it could not be effected, the ship filling so fast, that the water was already gaining the main deck; soon after, the ship struck on a rock, and the shock was so violent that the whole stern part of the vessel, with the mizen-mast, was separated from the ship and broken to pieces: judge of our deplorable situation; all our boats destroyed, the night setting in dark and stormy, the land far off yet, surrounded by rocks and breakers, on which the sea broke mountains high, and was continually making over the wreck of our unfortunate vessel; which, however, fortunately for us, stuck fast between the two rocks, where it had struck the last time, when it was broken in two; we had, therefore, no hope of preservation left, but that the wreck might hold together and be able to resist the waves until next morning, when, with the help of day-light, we might make an attempt to reach the shore. We spent the night in the best manner we could, and a horrid dismal night it was for us all; at last, the so ardently wished-for day-light

came, and found us in the same situation; the fury of the waves, breaking all around the wreck, appalled the stoutest hearts, and left but little hopes that we should be able to reach the shore alive; however, life is sweet, and the trial must be made; so every one laid hold of what he could get, a plank, a spar, casks, hen-coops, &c. and, trusting to an Almighty Providence, committed himself to the waves. The greater part arrived on shore, but dreadfully bruised and lacerated by the rocks, against which they were repeatedly thrown; others were quite dead, although still holding fast to the piece of wreck which they had seized when quitting the ship. I had the singular good fortune to arrive safe and sound. Of the twenty men composing our detachment, six perished on this occasion, amongst whom was the corporal; how many of the crew perished at the same time I cannot tell; all those who had the good fortune to reach the shore alive, were so worn out and weak, that every one looked out for a place to lie himself down and get that repose he so much wanted; our captain had also providentially reached the shore without accident, as did also the three mates of the ship; a subaltern of the 80th regiment was cast on shore dead, whom, as well as all the other bodies that were thrown on shore by the waves, we buried as well as we could in our then situation.

Although we now found ourselves in a most desolate and destitute condition, yet we were all happy, and blessed God for our great deliverance, except one of the mates, the same who had the watch when our misfortune took place; this man, as soon as he had a little recruited his strength, laid hold of a small keg of rum, of which plenty had floated on shore, with many other things, from the wreck, and applying it to his mouth, drank until he was perfectly intoxicated; he then went to the top of a rock over-hanging the sea, and threw himself headlong into the waves, where he finished his miserable life.

The country seemed barren and little cultivated, but shewed some signs of being inhabited by human beings, or rather tigers, as they proved to us afterwards. When the day was more advanced, we perceived at a distance one of the savage inhabitants of this inhospitable coast; he seemed to be perfectly naked, and carried a long stick like a pike, and a sack on his shoulder. When he perceived us he ran towards us, and in a few moments was followed by a considerable number of these monsters, which name they richly deserve for the horrid cruelties they practised upon us; they were all naked, like the first, and were armed, some with match-locks, and some with bows and arrows, but all carried a large knife like a sabre, and a pike. The country, farther in-land, must contain a consi-

derable population, from the number of these savages we saw afterwards. As soon as they had joined us we were surrounded and plundered of the few articles of clothing we had been able to save and bring with us to shore, and stripped perfectly naked; resistance was out of the question, and would have been perfectly useless, as we had not been able to save any arms whatever, and their number was greatly superior to ours. The captain tried to defend himself, but one of these savages laid him senseless at his feet, by a blow on the head with a stick, and they would have cut him to pieces if we had not ourselves, in the greatest hurry, undressed him and delivered his clothes to them. Far more cruel and ferocious was the treatment a few unfortunate Hindoos' servants to the officers, received from these bloody monsters; they happened to have on their arms some silver bracelets; in their eagerness to seize this glittering prey, they did not take the trouble to take off the bracelets, but cut off the poor fellows' arms with their long knives, to get at them the quicker. They treated, however, the Lascars, or Hindoo sailors of the ship, with a little more lenity than they did us; after having rifled them of every thing of the least value they had about their persons, they allowed them to make use of the eatables that were washed on shore by the waves; but they would not allow the Europeans to touch or make use of any thing; all the casks and kegs of wine and liquors they stove in, and let the contents run into the sand. Some of the sailors having made use of the liquor, before the arrival of these savages, got immoderately drunk, and were lying asleep among the casks, where the savages murdered them as soon as they discovered them. As yet they had spared the lives of those amongst us who were sober; but, notwithstanding, our situation was worse than death, and we envied those who had been murdered. Naked, tormented with hunger and thirst, surrounded on all sides by those barbarians, and in a country where we could not hope the least relief, we were thrown into a fresh consternation on seeing another troop of savages coming from the interior towards us. Those who surrounded us, at the approach of the new comers, threw themselves on the ground, and raised their hands above their heads, by which marks of respect, we supposed that it was their prince who was coming; in this opinion we were confirmed, by seeing that, after paying their respects to this prince, or great man, they all got up and ranged themselves in a line before him, with their eyes turned towards us.

After this chief had spoken some time to them, they all at once brandished their pikes, as if they were going to charge

and kill us all. On seeing this, we took to our heels and ran with all possible speed towards a mountain, situated at a little distance from us; they pursued, and fired after us. All those who could not run fast enough, or were wounded by their shots, were immediately butchered, as soon as overtaken by them.

This happened in the evening, about the setting of the sun. It was dark before we arrived at the mountain to which we had directed our flight; we gained, however, the summit with some difficulty; here we remained till midnight, in the greatest anxiety, for fear of being overtaken and murdered by our savage pursuers.

Our number was woefully diminished, being now reduced to nine persons, who were the captain, the two mates, Serjeant St. Julien, who commanded our little detachment, myself, and four others of our regiment. After midnight we resolved to descend the mountain, and continue our flight, being afraid that, if we remained there until day-light, we might be discovered and again be pursued by the savages; it was, therefore, more adviseable to take advantage of the remainder of the night to go as far as our forces would permit, and endeavour to elude our pursuers; hoping also, that, on the other side of the hill, we should find a champaign and cultivated country, where we might, perhaps, be able to alleviate our pressing wants; but when we came to the foot of the hill, we found a desert before us. I had had the misfortune, in the beginning of our flight, to run a sharp and large thorn into my left foot, which pierced it quite through. The fright, however, of being pursued had prevented my feeling any pain from this accident, until our arrival on the mountain: during our stay there, I drew it out with great difficulty and pain.

Owing to the extreme darkness of the night, it was impossible to distinguish any object in this desert; we, however, had the good fortune, after some time, to arrive at a pool of stagnant water. Worn out with fatigue and thirst, we threw ourselves down at the water's edge to drink and wash our feet, which were all wounded and torn by the stones, full of thorns, and much swelled. We had scarcely time to do this and to repose our wearied limbs a little, before we were again assailed and frightened by the discordant cries of a troop of savages, at no great distance from us, who probably had been pursuing and were upon the look-out for us.

With the late horrid scenes still fresh in our memory, we did not choose to become the victims of a fresh one; but ran again to the shelter of the hill which we had lately left, and gained

its summit without being discovered by these savages, and, therefore, supposed ourselves in safety for the present.

As soon as day broke we descended the hill again, but our company was again reduced by the loss of two of my comrades, who must have been separated from us during the night, although I cannot conceive how it happened; however, we continued our fatiguing march, and, after some hours, arrived in a flat country, perfectly destitute of any kind of vegetation. About nine o'clock in the morning we arrived at a piece of brackish water, where we resolved to repose our wearied limbs, and although there was nothing to eat, and we were tormented with hunger, yet as this water, bad as it was, preserved us from thirst, our exhausted state forced us to remain there forty-eight hours to recruit. The third day we continued our march through this desart country, but were obliged to proceed very slowly, being very much weakened for want of sustenance, so that we were scarcely able to walk at all, and if we had not now and then met with some water, we must have perished in that inhospitable region. We saw at a distance, before us, a hill, towards which we directed our steps, but evening came on before we were able to gain it; animated with the hope, uncertain as it was, that perhaps we might there meet with something to satisfy our craving hunger, five of us pushed forward; St. Julian and myself, being worse on foot than the others, were obliged, much against our will, to remain behind, and follow the others more slowly: however, we got to it at last. We found this hill very steep, and situated on the sea-shore, over-hanging the sea. I mounted first, and should have got to the top safely; but, unfortunately, St. Julien, who followed me closely, to assist himself in climbing, laid hold of me, and made me lose my balance, so that we were both precipitated to the bottom of the mountain into the sea, which washed its base, and thereby saved our lives by breaking our fall, and prevented our being dashed to pieces upon the rocks among which we fell; notwithstanding, we must have perished soon, although the water was not deep, from the waves continually dashing us against the rocks. Fortunately, we perceived a rock raised above the level of the sea, which we were enabled to gain by animating each other, and exerting to the utmost what strength we had left, although we performed it with incredible labour. Here we were sheltered a little from the waves. On this rock we remained three days and four nights. God knows, however, that we should gladly have preferred death to our miserable existence. We had nothing to eat or drink, and were at last forced to drink a little sea-water, to prevent our perishing

from thirst. On the fourth day, in the morning, the sea became more calm, and thereby enabled us to descend from our rock to try to gain the shore, which happily we accomplished, though on the other side of the hill from that where we originally tried to climb it; here, however, we had the pleasure to find a flat country, which saved us the trouble to pass over the mountain, to continue our road, in the weak state we then were. This would have been an exertion absolutely above our strength. We dragged ourselves slowly on, happy to be still together, and deploring the fate of our unfortunate comrades in misfortune, whom we supposed had shared our fate, and perished in climbing up this fatal mountain. Happily, however, about three o'clock in the afternoon, we saw before us, at a distance, something like men. At first we were divided between the fear of its being savages, and the hope of its proving to be our lost friends: however, we went straight towards them, and when we got near enough, perceived, to our great joy and happiness, that they were, indeed, our friends. As soon as they saw us, they cried out—"Come to us, dear brothers and friends, we have eating and drinking in abundance." When we joined them, we found them seated round a hole, which they had dug in the ground to get water, in which they had succeeded, for the hole was full of it, and their eatables consisted of a sort of green thick leaves, which grew in the ground about the spot where they were seated. We fell too, and regaled ourselves abundantly with their provisions, such as they were. We found their number reduced to three, the captain, and our two remaining comrades of the regiment, by name Beck and Voss. We enquired what was become of the two mates, and we were told that they parted from them two days before; whether they had remained behind, from fatigue, during the night, or had chosen another route, they did not know. As the sea was not far distant from where we were, we sent Beck and Voss, who were the strongest, to the shore, to see if they could not pick up some shells or sea-animal for our subsistence, and, to our great joy, they brought us back a sort of crabs, and some oysters, in which we found a curious sort of animal, which had four legs, and a head resembling that of a cat: however, its ugliness and extraordinary figure did not prevent our eating it; we wished only that it had been also of the size of a cat, as well as its figure. We disdained nothing, however small, and were ever thankful to Providence for whatever it sent us, that was in the least fit to support our miserable existence: having, therefore, found some sort of meat, we wished very much to dress it in some shape or other, but were greatly

puzzled how to accomplish it; however, necessity is the mother of invention. We recollected, that, with two pieces of dry wood, a fire might be lighted; we, therefore, looked out for some wood fit for our purpose. We sharpened one piece with our teeth, as well as we could, at one end, set it perpendicular upon the other, and turned it between our hands as rapidly as possible, until the wood, heated by the friction, took fire. We were not in want of dry brush-wood, of which we had enough about us, and with this we soon lighted a good fire, on the coals of which we laid our meat, roasted it, and eat it with our leaves, which served us as a dish of vegetables; after which, we drank a bumper of cold water, and were as well satisfied with our meal as if we had made the best dinner in a capital tavern. This water was very useful to us, not only for drinking, but to cure our poor wounded and swelled feet, by continually washing and bathing them in it.

We remained three days in this spot to repose our wearied frames, and recruit our exhausted strength. On the fourth day, early in the morning, we continued our march, in the hope of getting out of this desert. We walked the whole day without finding any water, or any thing to eat. Late in the evening we arrived at a sort of ditch, which ran across some rocks; the moon shone a little, and, by its light, we perceived some white pebbles at the bottom of this ditch, which made us hope we should find water, as these kind of pebbles had always indicated that water was near. We were just going to dig a hole in the ground for it, when one of our friends found, near at hand, a hole full of water, which was rather brackish; but we were accustomed to it, having met with little else as yet; so we sat down round this hole, and quenched our thirst with its contents. Round this place we found some horns, feet, and skins of goats, too much putrified to be of any use to us; but we naturally judged that they must have been left there by some people, and that there might be some of this cruel race in the neighbourhood, and therefore it would be most prudent not to stay too long in this place; however, we reposed ourselves there that night, and left it early next morning.

After we had prosecuted our march a few hours, our poor captain sat himself down on the ground, declaring he was incapable of proceeding any further, requesting we would leave him and go on, as he was determined to stay there and die; but we declared we would not abandon him, and if he was determined to stay there, so would we. We persuaded him, with some difficulty, to try to go on with us again. Two of us took him under the arms to support him, and help him on,

but we were soon obliged to give it up, as he did nothing but lament and cry bitterly, begging us, for God's sake, to lay him on the ground, and let him die quietly. We were, at last, obliged to comply with his desire; he, therefore, laid himself down again, and we sat down by his side. He requested us again to leave him to his fate; that he must die; that he was convinced there were savages in the neighbourhood, and that it was better that one should die alone, than all perish. He begged of us, however, most fervently, that if any of us should have the happiness to find our way into a civilized country, not to forget to publish his death, and more particularly to acquaint his brother how and where he had ended his life, telling us, at the same time, that his brother was a colonel at Madras, and bore the same name with himself, namely, *Baer*. We promised him every thing. We should not, however, have abandoned him; but all at once we heard the cries of some savages, and saw about thirty of them, who were running towards us. No time was to be lost. We four, that is, St. Julien, Beck, Voss, and myself, ran as fast as our legs would carry us, and again had the good fortune to escape our enemies before they perceived us; but the unfortunate captain remained behind. We soon heard their noise drawing towards the spot where we had left him. Heaven only knows what was his fate: whether these monsters killed him or not. We continued our journey, in the hope of getting out of this desert at last. We went on for nine days, without meeting any thing but brackish water, and some plants, upon which we subsisted. Now and then we found a fruit resembling cherries, but of a very disagreeable taste, and which, every time we eat of them, made our gums and lips sore and swell, and very painful; but as these effects went off again, we continued to eat them whenever we met any.

Until now we had contrived to remain constantly together. But it pleased Providence to divide our small number still more. St. Julien and myself became so weak and languid, that we could scarcely drag ourselves along. The other two, who had better preserved their forces, became impatient, and told us, that as we were a restraint upon them, they did not choose to perish on our account; that they, therefore, would push on while their strength yet lasted, and not wait till they were reduced as low as we were; that if they met their way a place where they could support themselves, they would there wait for us. They bade us farewell, and told us to make what haste we could after them, but I forgot to mention, that till now we had always followed the sea-shore in our journey onwards. We were sitting near a small pool of water, when

our last two surviving friends took leave of us. We remained there six whole days, to recruit our exhausted strength, living all the while on wild plants, and a few crabs we gathered on the sea-shore; but, as we were too weak to light a fire in the manner we did formerly, we were obliged to eat them raw. The seventh day we dragged ourselves forward on our journey, and went on five or six days, although we made very little progress; and I am fully persuaded, that a man in good health would have walked, in three hours, what we performed, with difficulty, in six days: however, we still advanced a little, either towards our deliverance or death, hoping for the first. All at once we perceived, in the sand, traces of the feet of two men in the direction of a mountain we saw before us at some distance. We said to each other, "Surely, these must have been our two friends who passed this way before us. Come, let us follow them, perhaps we may be able to overtake them." But our joy did not last long. The sand and traces soon finished together, the soil becoming hard and rocky. We were yet about two miles distant from the mountain, and we strained every nerve to attain and get to the summit of it. Fortunately for us it was not steep. When we were about half way up, we saw before us an over-hanging rock, which we determined to gain, to repose ourselves under its shelter. When we got there, what a horrid sight met our view. Two dead bodies, sitting next to each other, with their backs resting against the rock. We touched them, but they were stiff and cold, and must have been dead some time. They were so disfigured, that although we saw that they were Europeans, we could not recognize their features; and it was only from the red colour of the hair of one of them, which was that of poor Voss, that we supposed they were our two poor unfortunate friends and comrades who had left us behind, as above-mentioned, and had come here to die. Notwithstanding our extreme debility, we resolved to bury them as well as we could, which we did, by stretching out their bodies on the ground, and covering them, as well as possible, with stones and loose fragments of rocks laying about the place. After which we prayed fervently over their grave, entreating the Almighty, if it was his good pleasure, to end also our miseries, and take us to himself by a similar death.

We remained several days in this place, expecting to die, as there was nothing whatever to eat or drink. At length our thirst became so excessive, that we drank each other's urine. I never before could have believed that human nature was capable of supporting such excruciating misery; but here I experienced it to its fullest extent, and yet it was nothing but

the fear of losing our existence, miserable as it was, that kept us so long in this dreadful situation, being afraid of meeting some of the savages if we descended the hill again, and being killed by them, which we ought rather to have considered as a blessing. However, on the sixth day of our stay here, despair gave us courage to descend into the plain below, to meet our fate, whatever it might be. We had not advanced far when, to our great joy and surprise, we met a fine fresh-water river, where we drank plentifully, and bathed and refreshed ourselves—this being the first real fresh-water we had met with since our misfortune. We discovered also a sort of reed growing along the margin of this river, which we found, by drawing out of the soil, produced a number of large roots, upon which we fed, and found very palatable. Seeing by this that Divine Providence had not entirely abandoned us, but still sent us, from time to time, something or other to sustain our existence and prevent our perishing, we took fresh courage and spirits. We resolved to light a fire, and, after great exertions, succeeded; then we looked out for some crabs on the sea-shore, and also succeeded in getting some, which we roasted with some of our roots, and made a better meal than we had made for a long while; considering our situation, we lived pleasantly enough. We found also, to our great satisfaction, that we were regaining our strength daily; and, having stayed there six days to recruit ourselves, we resolved to set forward again, after having forded the river.

We had travelled about fourteen days, always through a hilly country, between rocks and hills, very barren as usual, following the sea-shore as much as possible, when we perceived some monkies of a very large kind, who frightened us a good deal at first; but finding they offered us no harm, we got accustomed to them; we even found them useful to us as guides, for we always found fresh-water wherever we met them; so that afterwards, whenever we saw any, so far from avoiding, we went straight up to them. After we got out of this chain of hills, we again came to a flat country, and saw a high hill at a great distance before us, which seemed to be situated close to the sea-shore: we directed our march towards it, with the intention of passing between it and the water; but when we arrived we found it impossible, as the sea washed its base, and the hill was very perpendicular on that side. In looking at this mountain, we perceived a grotto in its side, which we found spacious enough to make a comfortable residence, and, therefore, resolved to stop there a few days; the more so, as we had perceived the sort of wild cherries, I have already mentioned, to grow in abundance on the sides of the hill.

Next day, having gone out towards the sea-shore to collect some cherries, I perceived something at a distance, which, on a nearer inspection, proved to be a large fish, completely dried by the sun; full of joy, I called St. Julien, who was at some distance, to show him what I had found, expecting he would be equally delighted with our good fortune; but, on the contrary, he was seized with great consternation, supposing that this fish must have been left there by the natives. I confess this reflection had escaped me; however, we resolved to apply our new-found treasure to our own use, which we did immediately; but found it so salted, and the meal we made upon it excited such a degree of thirst, that, not being able to quench it, we were obliged to proceed and look out for water to allay it; we, however, took care to carry our fish and a provision of cherries with us. We went round the foot of the hill, and stopped at the first place where we had the good fortune to find water; after which we went on, meeting sometimes with hills, sometimes with flat ground; and, wherever we found water, we made a halt for a few days, lighted a fire, dressed a small part of our fish and some of those thick leaves already mentioned, which we generally found growing wherever the ground was marshy. In this manner we subsisted until we had consumed our fish.

We had travelled onwards about a fortnight since finding the fish, when we came to, and entered, a considerable forest of thorny trees; we had not penetrated far into it when we saw, to our great fright, two very large wolves, or hyenas; we immediately hid ourselves as well as we could, that they might not perceive us, and fortunately we soon lost sight of them. These were the only ones we ever saw. I repeat again, that till then we always kept as near to the sea-shore as possible, for three principal reasons; first, because we were more likely to pick up something to eat on the shore, than in the deserts we were traversing, such as crabs, shell-fish, and other productions of the sea, cast on shore by the waves, and of which we generally picked up a little almost every day; secondly, to wash our feet and refresh them in the sea, which was as necessary to us, burnt and blistered as they were continually by the burning sands we were walking on, as eating or drinking; and thirdly, in the hope of seeing some vessel pass by, and be delivered by it from our dreadful situation.

We were three days in traversing this forest. After we got out of it, we found again an open country before us, having the sea on our left, and some hills on our right; we saw, at a great distance off, a chain of very high hills, stretching right across our road. Seeing, therefore, that we could not

avoid them, we went straight up to them; we arrived at their foot after a long and fatiguing march; and just at that moment, to our great astonishment and consternation, we perceived near us a native, or black man, who was coming towards us with a large knife in his hand. He ran towards me; I tried to save myself by flight; but weakness and fear soon overcame me; I fell, and fainted at the same moment; my friend perceiving my situation, ran to my assistance. The black had also stopped near me; he spoke to St. Julien as soon as he came up; but, unfortunately, in a language he could not comprehend. He, however, made out his meaning so far, that he was asking him whether we were strangers or negroes; he answered, by signs, as well as he could, that we were unfortunate strangers; upon which, the black man went away.

During this time I was recovered a little, and asked what was become of the savage I had seen; my friend told me he had left us. However, we were not the less afraid, being apprehensive that there might be more of them in the neighbourhood, and that this one might bring back some others to murder us. From his appearance, however, having some skins about his body to cover his nakedness, we supposed they were more civilized; and, therefore, probably more humane than the ferocious savages who had treated us so cruelly. However, not being willing to trust too much to that, we marched off with the greatest haste to cross this chain of mountains, which took us eight days to accomplish.

Finding every now and then pools of reddish water, which, however, were perfectly sweet and good, and subsisting almost entirely on the sort of sallad growing near the water, we saw nothing more of any natives.

After we crossed these mountains, we again fell in with a forest of the same kind of trees as the first, which took us five days to get through; but this was the last we met. After we had crossed it, we saw before us a large river, which seemed to be at least a mile and a half wide, and on the opposite side of it, to our great joy, we saw large green trees, which we hoped might bear some kind of fruit or other; we stopped on its border a whole day and a night, not knowing how to cross it, being so broad.

Next morning, as our last resource, we resolved to try to ford it; and, to our great satisfaction, we succeeded. This large river proving very shallow, although we were often up to our shoulders in the water, we arrived at those trees, whose sight had been so agreeable to our eyes; but we found ourselves deceived in our hopes, for they bore no kind of fruit, and their leaves were not fit for eating, being coarse and full

of prickles. We spent nearly an hour in crossing this wood, and when we got out of it, we found ourselves in the skirts of a large village.

We entered the first hut we met, and asked an old man we found in it to give us some water to drink; he answered us the same way, by signs, that he had none; so we left him, and went forward into the village. We soon met a number of children, who at the sight of us cried out lustily, and ran away in the greatest fright.

Soon after we saw a number of people sitting on the ground, and each holding in his hand a string of pearls, like chaplets, as if they were praying and telling their beads; so we fell on our knees near them, to pretend joining in their prayers; they made us signs to sit down near them, which we did; soon after which some of them, who had gone away probably for that purpose, brought us a large piece of a substance they called tammer, which seemed to be, by the taste and look, a sort of coarse bread, made of some kind of grain unknown to us, and a wooden vessel full of water. We received the whole with great thankfulness, and made an excellent meal. After we had finished it, they made us a sign to leave their village. We obeyed this order with alacrity, not to displease them; happy that we had at last met some human beings from whom we had apparently nothing to apprehend, and who seemed likely to treat us with some degree of humanity: we chose for our abode a large tree, at a small distance from the village. The chief of this village had also given us a leathern bag, with signs to employ it to fetch water, which he made us understand was not found in the village, but at a fountain situated at a considerable distance on the other side of the river we had just crossed, and that they were obliged to go there every day to fetch it, which was hard work.

We made ourselves a sort of hut against the trunk of this tree, with branches, which we wove together as well as we could with our hands, and covered it with small leafy branches. We then went to the river-side, where we found a good number of crabs, which we brought back to our newly-made hut, lighted a fire, and, roasting them, made another comfortable meal, happy to be at last relieved from the necessity of subsisting almost entirely on our unsubstantial sallad, which had for so long a period been our daily and almost only food, which, together with the incredible hardships we had undergone, had reduced us to mere skeletons of skin and bone. However, our present situation promised, by degrees, to restore our lost strength and flesh, and we were firmly resolved to stay here as long as circumstances would allow.

The village was situated in a small island, being surrounded by another branch of the river; our life, however, was very laborious. From the natives we learned that we could not cross the river at high-water, it being then too deep to ford; so one of us (as we took it by turns,) went early in the morning, being then low-water, to fetch a sufficient quantity from the fountain for a day's consumption. This fountain being at a great distance from the river, he was obliged, on his return, to wait till the evening, before the tide was low enough to recross the river and come home. The water thus obtained, proved both sweet and wholesome; but it had this particular and very unpleasant quality, that the next day, after it was brought home, it became so brackish as to be absolutely unfit for use, which obliged us, of course, to fetch every day our provision, which proved, in our exhausted state, a very severe task; the one who remained behind, went, during his friend's absence, to the river to gather crabs; and, at meal-hours, he went through the village begging, and generally got some pieces of tamma, and the heads of such fish as the villagers consumed; for, as they never touched the heads, they threw them to us, to whom they were very acceptable.

To be more successful in our begging excursions, we had taken the trouble to learn as much of their language as we could pick up in such a short time; amongst others a short prayer, which we always repeated to them; and as we perceived they were Mahometans, by the ceremonies we saw them perform, we resolved, in order the better to ingratiate ourselves with them, to make them believe we were also Mahometans, by imitating and joining in their ceremonies of worship, and by shewing and performing before them some ceremonies we had seen practised in the East-Indies, by the Mahometans of that country. By this I really do believe that they took us for very devout Mahometans. In our unhappy situation we thought we might have recourse to this stratagem to better our situation, without committing a crime. We explained to them, as well as we could, that we were Persian merchants, who had suffered shipwreck in going to Egypt. Whether they comprehended us entirely or not, I cannot say; however, although they certainly treated us with humanity, after a fortnight's stay, they ordered us to leave the vicinity of their village, and go further on. Though our fatigues were great, their threats induced us to comply with their desires; so carrying with us as much water and provisions as we could, we set forward again, but were able to proceed but slowly, on account of the great number of rivers, or inlets of the sea, which we continually met, and crossed with great trouble, danger, and fatigue;

being always obliged to wait for low water before we could venture to ford them.

After several days' travelling in this manner, we found another village, which we had no sooner entered than we were surrounded by the inhabitants; on which, we fell on our knees, and repeated our prayer and ceremonies. This short prayer was as follows:

Leyle he leza pua Mahomet. Thzar resu ralah!

which signifies that we adored God and his prophet Mahomet as well as they. Upon this, these people brought us some tamma and water. While we were sitting on the ground eating what had been given us, to our great astonishment, we saw a man come out of one of the huts of the village, whom, although he was dressed in every respect like the natives, we immediately knew to be the first mate of the ship, whose name was Mr. Kuntzby. We did not dare, at first, to accost or speak to him; but when we had finished our meal, he took us aside and requested we should not discover he was a Christian, nor even show in public that we knew him; he informed us he had given himself out to be a poor Mahomedan merchant, who had lost every thing by shipwreck, and taken the name of Mahomed Nakuda, and so we must call him in future, whenever we should have any thing of sufficient consequence to tell him in presence of the inhabitants of the village; but that, unless on a very pressing occasion, we should not speak or accost him in public; he assured us further, that we had nothing to apprehend from the natives, and that we should get eating and drinking enough to satisfy our wants; that, therefore, we should stay there with him, until he found a proper opportunity of leaving the place, when he would try to take us along with him. We asked him how we came to find him there? and he told us, that on the night when we had the misfortune to fall into the sea, by climbing the steep mountain from whose side we slipped down, as above related, he had remained behind, and taken a different route from the darkness of the night, which had separated him from us; that, after many hardships, he had arrived at this village, where he had had the good fortune to meet a shipmate, a Bengalese tindal, or petty officer of Lascars, who himself had arrived there before him; with the assistance of this tindal, who was a Mahomedan, and spoke, and understood, the Arabic fluently, it was easy for him to pass for a Mahometan on the natives. By his assistance he was very well received, and continued to be well treated by the hospitable natives, and that this tindal was still in the village. We found, however, to our great disappointment, that we had not the same treatment to expect, as the inhabitants treated us like slaves

in every respect, and made us perform the work of slavery; they gave to each of us a large leather pouch, or bag, with which, every morning early, we were obliged to go a considerable distance to a fountain, to fill them with water; from whence we did not return before twelve o'clock, when they gave us, after receiving our load of water, our dinner, which ought to have been a pound of tamma, but generally fell far short of it, and we were obliged to be content; now and then they added to it a small quantity of dried fish. After our dinner, we were obliged to run about the village and its environs, to collect the scattered stones of the fruit, with which they make their tamma, or bread. These stones are broken to pieces in a wooden mortar, and serve as food for their goats, which abound in this country; if we brought back a sufficient quantity of these stones, it was well; if not, we were ill-treated and abused by the chief of the village, whose slaves we were.

After this task was over, we were obliged to spend the remainder of the day in going to the nearest wood to pick up dry branches of the thorny wood, common in this country, and bring home as much as we could carry, for fuel. It is true, we received all this bad treatment because we could not pass ourselves upon them for Mahometans, in which we did not succeed so well here as in the first village.

Notwithstanding all we could do, our friend Mahomed Nakuda, and his interpreter, the tindal, did not assist us in the least, although they might very easily have made us pass for Mahomedans as well as themselves; but they never took any notice of us, or assisted us with any victuals, although they saw how we were treated, and had themselves plenty to eat; but they considered only themselves.

Had we succeeded to pass ourselves for Mahomedans, we should probably have fared equally well with them; for the natives treated us so badly only from their hatred to Christians, and because they wanted to force us to become Mahomedans, and to submit to circumcision; which proposition, however, we always firmly rejected, being determined to submit to every thing rather than this.

The mate had informed us, in secret, of their intentions towards us, and begged we would not consent to change our religion. We told him he need not fear, we had no intention of doing so; and that we would sooner lose our lives than do it. After having repeatedly resisted the entreaties of the natives to this effect, they threatened us, that, if we did not comply with their desires, they would make us work from morning till night, and give us nothing to eat or drink until we should submit; but we despised their threats, and went on as usual.

However, shortly after this, the mate secretly came to us, and told us, that they were then deliberating about us, and were determined to repeat the same offer for the last time, and if we still refused, to put us to death. We resolved immediately, with the advice of the mate, to leave the village instantly. He informed us, that a few days' march further on we should meet with another village, and he advised us to go there, as probably we might be better received and treated than we were here. We followed his advice, and arrived at this village without accident, though much fatigued. The inhabitants received us in a very friendly manner, made us sit down, and brought us something to eat and drink. Some of them went away, and soon returned bringing with them a man whom we immediately recognized, and found to belong to a detachment of the Bengal artillery on-board our ship. His name was James Dunbar, an Irishman by birth. As soon as he knew us he received us with much pleasure, shook us cordially by the hand, and said—"My dear friends, I am now a Mahometan; I submitted to circumcision, my head is shaved, and I am happy. Do the same, I advise you, as we are in a country from whence there is no hope of returning. It will be for your own advantage." In short, he made use of every argument in his power to persuade us immediately to follow his example. Had we felt ourselves in safety, we should have answered him in a rough manner; however, in our situation we were obliged to dissimulate, and merely answered that we could not bring ourselves at once to submit to it, but requested time to consider. By his recommendation we were well received for the present, and our wants supplied by the natives. He also informed us, that two friends of our detachment, who, from his description, must have been two privates of the name of Debish and Hozlohen, who had been separated from us on the first night of our flight after our shipwreck, had arrived there some time before, and that they had also refused to become Mahometans, rather preferring going forward, although he had warned them that they would encounter a desert in which, during ten days march, they would find nothing either to eat or drink. Notwithstanding this caution they had set out on their march, and were found dead shortly after, about four days' journey from the village. He told us also, that soon after his arrival and change of religion, the sheik, or chief, to whom these three villages belong, namely, the two we had already seen, and the one where we then were, which was his residence, had given him a boat, and some men, to proceed to the wreck of our ship, where he had found a great

number of unburied European corpses, whom he buried with his people as well as they could, and then brought away every thing of value they could find from the wreck. We remained in the village five or six days, being well enough treated during this time, yet continually pressed to change our religion; but, as we always refused to submit to it, after the lapse of that time, the sheik forbade every inhabitant to give us either bread to eat, or a drop of water to drink; and he sent us word, that if we did not depart instantly he would put us to death; so, not daring to enter the desert said to be before us, we resolved to return to the village where we had left the mate, hoping that, perhaps, something might there turn out to our advantage; we therefore returned, but found, to our great astonishment and consternation, that he, as well as the tindall, had left the place, and embarked, shortly before our return on-board a company's ship bound to Egypt. Had we remained there, we might also have embarked and have been delivered from our deplorable situation. Any one may judge of our feelings on this occasion. The inhabitants of the village informed us, that they were extremely exasperated against the mate for having imposed upon them, as, in consequence of believing him a true Mahometan, like themselves, they had admitted him to their intimacy; that he had eat and drank with them out of the same vases, which was a great blasphemy, and made them unclean, and obliged them to submit to great privations to wipe away their stain. Having asked them, (for I must not forget to say that we had now so far learnt their language, as to be able to comprehend a little what they said to us,) how they had found out his imposition, they said, that the man who, for a recompence, had undertaken to take them on-board the ship, was standing on the deck, waiting to receive his promised reward, when he saw the mate, who had gone down the ladder, come up again without his Musulman's dress, having put on a hat and European clothes, and holding in his hand a piece of pork, which is as much abhorred by them as by the Jews, he came up to him and devoured the piece of pork in his presence, telling him, at the same time, that he was a Christian, and had imposed upon their credulity; upon which he left the ship with great rage and disgust, and rowed to the shore, and informed the inhabitants of the circumstance; they swore to us, that if a favourable wind had not sprung up, by which the ship, which before was becalmed, was enabled to get under weigh and leave their coast, they would have attempted to take the ship, and be revenged on him and the ship's crew also. There is no doubt that this ridiculous and most imprudent conduct of the

mate endangered the ship's safety, and put our lives in the utmost danger; in fact, having before been so ill treated by them, we had nothing to expect but instant death, and that they would revenge themselves upon us for the affront they had received from the mate: however, they spared our lives for the present, bestowing plenty of ill treatment upon us, which we bore patiently, being determined to submit to our fate, whatever it might be, being harassed and worn out by our continued misfortunes. They refused us even a drop of water, which we were obliged, as formerly, to get at the distant fountain, where we generally stayed the whole day, and came back to the village in the evening, where, whenever we saw a number of them sitting together taking their evening meal, we approached at a humble distance, and waited patiently until they threw away the heads and remains of the fish which composed their meal, and which, with great difficulty and our humble entreaty, they allowed us, like dogs, to pick up. In this miserable way we subsisted a fortnight.

To our very great joy, one day, which was the sixteenth since our return to this place, as we were walking on the seashore, in the afternoon, ardently looking out for a ship, of which we had before seen several pass, but at too great a distance for them to take notice of any signals we could make, so that the sight of them only augmented our misery, we had the happiness to perceive one again; at this time it seemed that Providence had taken pity on our sufferings, and was going to send us relief when we despaired of it. The ship was going at a great rate, and would soon have been out of sight; but fortunately the wind suddenly died away, and, in consequence, the currents, which are very strong here, and set towards the coast, brought the ship very soon so near to it, that, for fear of an accident, they let go an anchor. This gave us some hopes. We made every signal we could think of, and, at last, about five o'clock in the evening, we had the unspeakable satisfaction of perceiving a small boat put off from the ship, and make towards us. As soon as they were near enough, we went into the sea up to our neck, to get the sooner to them. There was only a sailor and a lieutenant of marines in the boat; and when we were near enough to speak to each other, they asked us who we were, and what we wanted. We explained to them, as well and as quick as we could, our unfortunate situation, and our adventures, telling them also that we belonged to the regiment de Mueron, in his majesty's service. At first they would not believe us, and we had some trouble to convince them: at last, however, they received us into their boat, and took us on-board their ship, which was a brig of war,

commanded by Captain Kummel, belonging to the British fleet then stationed in the Red Sea, and cruising, fortunately for us, on the coast of Abyssinia. Captain Kummel, to whom we were presented on our arrival on-board, did not, at first, know what to make of us; however, hearing that we were Germans, and could speak a little English, he questioned us. We told him our story, and had the good fortune to convince him that we spoke the truth, upon which he made us heartily welcome, and said he was happy to deliver us from our cruel situation. He then ordered us some clothes; for ever since we were first robbed by the savages, we had remained perfectly naked, the natives themselves wearing nothing but a turban on their head, and a skin round their middle, falling to the middle of their legs. After we were dressed, he ordered us each a glass of brandy, which did us much good: he then ordered each of us a good portion of salt beef and biscuit, which we seized with avidity, and tore with our hands and teeth, and devoured like ravenous beasts rather than men, from the dreadful hunger we had so long suffered under. The captain and every one looked on with astonishment, and being afraid we might over-eat and hurt ourselves, told us not to eat too much salt-provision, which would occasion great thirst, and that he had very little water to spare, being very short: we, therefore, refrained from the salt-meat, but could not eat sufficiently of biscuits, so, when we were sent down to repose during the night, we took a bag full of them with us, and the whole night, instead of sleeping, we did nothing but eat. It is astonishing how our weak stomachs could contain and digest this load of nourishment, and that we did not die with overloading them, or, at least, suffer severely from it; however, it did us no harm.

Early next morning the captain ordered a boat, with a lieutenant of the ship, and a lieutenant of marines, some marines, seven sailors, and St. Julien and myself, to go on shore, to fetch water; we took the liberty to represent to him that it was dangerous to send any body on shore in this country, the inhabitants being half savages and very cruel, particularly to Europeans and Christians, and told him what had happened lately on account of the conduct of the mate of our ship; we represented further, that at all events it would be better to leave us behind, as the natives seeing us come back, would suppose we came to be revenged on them for their cruel conduct to us, and that therefore they would make every possible exertion to destroy whatever party might be sent to their shore, and moreover, that all the water to be got there was bad and brackish; the captain answered us, that as to the enmity of

the natives, he would provide against their efforts, by sending his large boat full of men, and well armed, to protect the other, whose crew, as well as ourselves, should also be armed, and that our presence was necessary to guide his men to the spot where water might be found; that as to the quality of the water, however bad it might be, it would at least serve for cooking, and thereby enable him to save what little he had left for drinking only; so they put two small guns, three-pounders, into the launch, under the command of the lieutenant of marines, with the ship's gunner, some marines and seven sailors, as also poor St. Julien; each man received a cutlass, a musket, and sufficient ammunition; a midshipman and myself went in a small boat and followed the other; the shore might be about three miles from the ship. When the first boat was about one hundred feet from the land, they saw a great number of armed natives running towards the beach; on perceiving which, our people saluted them with a volley from the guns and musketry; but the natives, without giving them time to reload their pieces, ran into the water, laid hold of the boat, overturned it, and killed every one they could lay hold of. Some of those unfortunate fellows tried to save themselves on shore, and ran towards the woods, but were soon overtaken and killed in our sight. On perceiving this disaster, the midshipman and myself tried instantly to save ourselves by flight; but before we could effect it, two of these monsters got so near to our little boat, that one of them made a cut at the midshipman with his *hasakei* or large knife, and nothing but the thickness of his hat saved his head from being cut in two; the other threw a lance at him, tied to a string, and wounded him in the thigh; notwithstanding, he did not lose his presence of mind, but laid hold of an oar as well as myself, and we rowed with all our might to get away from our enemies, which we fortunately soon did, and reached the ship without further accident. The captain had seen the whole tragedy with his spy-glass, and was inconsolable for the melancholy fate and loss of his people. As soon as we were taken on-board, the officer was put to bed, and his wounds dressed, which happily were not dangerous; and although I was not wounded, I was so completely out of my senses, that they had more trouble with me than the wounded officer: what tormented me most was the loss and dreadful end of my unfortunate friend St. Julien, who had shared with me all my dangers and hardships; had always supported and comforted me in our afflictions, and proved himself a most true and valuable friend and companion; that he should perish in such a cruel manner, just at the time we were relieved from our hopeless situation; and that he, as

well as the unfortunate boat's crew, might have been still alive, if the captain would but have taken our well-meant advice, made my regrets doubly severe; I could not help giving vent to them. However, the captain, who was now as sorry as any body for his imprudence, did what he could to console me, promising, that as soon as we should arrive at **Mocca**, he would send me on-shore, have me well taken care of, and procure me the means of returning to my regiment, by the first ship that should sail from **Mocca** to the **East Indies**. This kind promise certainly served to console me and raise my spirits; this happened on the 21st of **December**, 197 days after my fatal shipwreck on this barbarous coast. Next day, the 22d, early in the morning we got the anchor up, and let the ship drive as near as prudence would allow to the shore, then let the anchor go again; after which, every gun was loaded and pointed towards the village, which the captain, to revenge his people, resolved to reduce to ashes. This was accordingly done, for what was not destroyed by the guns was consumed by the fire, so that nothing remained of the whole village but a heap of ruins; however, I doubt whether any of the natives were killed or wounded by our shot, as they all retired early behind the cover of a small hill behind their village, which completely covered them from our guns; they were too numerous, and we not strong enough, to dare to disembark and attack them on shore, so, for fear of making bad worse, we contented ourselves with the vengeance we had taken; the anchor was heaved up, and we set sail from this savage and inhospitable shore on our voyage to **Mocca**, where we arrived on the 9th of **January**, 1802. As soon as we arrived, the captain went on-shore and took me with him, and had the kindness to present me to **Captain de la Vitterie**, an **English** engineer officer, to whom I told my eventful story; he shewed me much compassion, and said he would do every thing he could for me. My health being destroyed by the great hardships I had undergone for such a length of time, I begged to be allowed a medical man; happily for me there was a very good **English** physician then at **Mocca**, to whom I was conducted, and who, with the help of good medicines and nourishing diet, completely restored me again in five days. I then returned to **Captain de la Vitterie**, who received me again very kindly; he gave me new clothes, of which I was in great want, some money, and offered to keep me in his service, if I would attach myself to him, and serve him faithfully. I excused myself, saying, that I wished ardently to return to my regiment, my friends, and countrymen; I thanked him most gratefully for all his goodness and kindness to me, begging he would still

add to all the obligations he had heaped upon me, by that of procuring me an opportunity of returning to my corps. He said, as I so anxiously desired it, he would try to procure me an opportunity to return to Madras as soon as one might offer; and that, in the mean time, I should stay with him, and that he would take care of me, which he did most kindly; but my happiness was short. Soon after, an English ship-of-war arrived at Mocca, commanded by Captain Garden, who saw me at Captain de la Vitterie's, and asked him who I was: he told him; on which, he desired me to relate my story to him; on hearing it, he asked me what corps that regiment de Mueron was? whether in the company's or in the king's service? I told him in the latter; on which he said, so was he, and that therefore he would take me on-board his ship with him; I tried to excuse myself, stating, that having suffered so much, and lost my ship, it would be very hard upon me to be obliged to return immediately to active duty, without being allowed some little time to repose and recruit; that my most earnest wish was to return to my own corps, for which I was enlisted, and not for the marine service; that, besides, I was destitute of every requisite for a soldier. He answered, that on coming on-board his ship I should be furnished with every thing necessary; that I must hold myself in readiness to go on-board with him next morning, and he would advise me not to make too many difficulties. After his departure, I applied to my kind protector Captain de la Vitterie to interest himself in my behalf, and try to prevent my being obliged to go with Captain Garden; he promised to do it, and when next day Captain Garden came again, he represented to him, in the most forcible terms, how cruel, unjust, and unlawful it was, in my present situation, to press me by force to serve on-board his ship; but nothing would do; go I must, notwithstanding Captain de la Vitterie's prayers and representations; so I took a sorrowful leave of my kind protector to follow my oppressor, who put me on-board his ship, which was a forty-four gun frigate, where I was immediately put on duty as a marine. Captain Garden, it is true, promised me, when on-board, that he would put me on-board the first ship we should meet, destined for Madras or Bengal, but he never thought of it afterwards. From Mocca we went to Jeddo, then to Cossir; whence we proceeded to Suez, where we had such a dreadful tempest, that we thought ourselves lost; however, we got through it: there was on-board this frigate a detachment of the tenth regiment, going to join the regiment then at Alexandria. Captain Garden supposing some part of the regiment de Meuron might be there likewise, resolved to send me along with this detach-

ment; we were seventeen days going from Suez to Alexandria, where I arrived safe; and finding no part of my regiment there, I was joined and did duty with the marines, which I did for about ten or twelve days; then I was sent back with a detachment of marines to Suez, and there put on-board my old ship again, where I did duty with the marines until the 30th May, when I was again transferred on-board the admiral's ship, commanded by Captain Pope, Commodore of the British fleet at Suez; from thence I was shortly transferred on-board the *Ganges*, where, to my surprise, I found again the first mate, Mahomed Nakuda, who had escaped, as above related, from the village we destroyed, and of which tragedy he was probably the first author, by his imprudent conduct; he seemed, however, well pleased to see me, received me very kindly, saying, "My poor Hendrick, what a sorry appearance you make, I'll do what I can for you;" in fact, he gave me plenty of eating and drinking, and provided me with some clothes, of which I stood in great need. However, I was not long suffered to remain with him, but was transferred from one ship to another, God knows why, until I at last got on-board the *Kamas*, which was going to Madras. To my great joy, we left Suez on the 6th of June, and arrived in the roads of Madras on the 12th of August; we were met and hailed by a frigate, who asked whence we came? we said from Egypt: he answered, I give you joy, you are the first ship that has, as yet, returned from that quarter: he asked, if we had any appearance of the plague on-board? we said no: he ordered us to send a boat on-board of him, having a letter for us from the governor-general; we sent for it, and found it to contain a most strict order to proceed to Bengal, without daring, on any pretext whatever, to touch any where before our arrival in Balasore roads; we therefore continued our voyage, and arrived at Balasore on the 20th August, 1802. The board of quarantine came on-board to examine our state of health, and we were obliged to wait three days before we got permission to proceed to Calcutta, where I was disembarked on the 24th of August.

But a new misfortune awaited me. I scarcely had been an hour on-shore, when I got a violent attack of fever, and was in consequence forced to go to the general hospital, where I was obliged to stay until the 10th of September following. After I got out of it, I was repeatedly questioned by the brigade-major of Fort William, about my adventures; at last, on the 16th September, I was sent on-board the *Bengal*, in which ship I had the happiness to arrive at Madras on the 7th October, 1802, from whence I went to Seringapatam, where my regiment was in garrison, and where

I arrived after near twenty months' absence, being the only survivor of the detachment which I had at first left, happy, beyond expression, to be again united with my friends, comrades, and countrymen. Before my memory had time to cool and forget past sufferings, the foregoing narrative was taken in writing, and I attest that I have related nothing but the simple truth.

Seringapatam, the 20th October, 1802.

HENDRICK PORTENGER.

FINIS.

